

# RAIL

*MOVING AMERICA FORWARD*



## ***Who We Are***



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration

2019



[www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov)

# We Are **FRA**

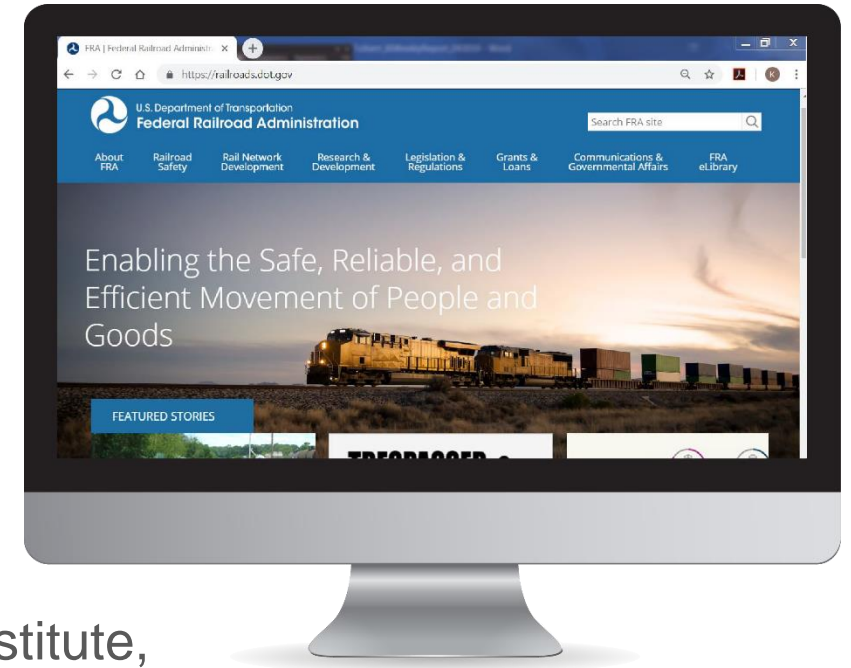
## Mission:

- The mission of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.

Vision: [RAIL– Moving America Forward](#)

**Priority:** Rail safety is in everything we develop, plan, institute, and practice moving America forward safely. In addition, supporting departmental goals.

- Reducing and eliminating risk is paramount to enhancing safety across the rail industry; and supporting and contributing to the U.S Department of Transportation's overall strategic goals: Safety, Innovation, Infrastructure, and Accountability

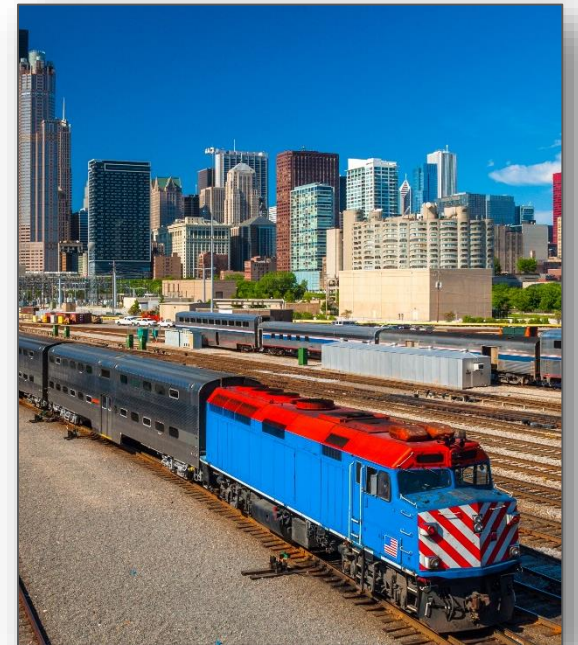


# Our **Focus**

## *Working together for rail safety*

*Establishing strong and enduring partnerships that foster a safe railroad operating environment nationwide as we focus on:*

- **REGULATORY OVERSIGHT** – Through data-driven inspections, audits, investigations, and special emphasis programs.
- **PERFORMANCE-BASED DATA** – Continuing a rigorous oversight and inspection program effectively utilizing performance-based data for productive decision-making and accountability.
- **INNOVATION** – Sponsoring and conducting research to support development and implementation of innovative technologies that improve safety, efficiency and reliability.
- **INVESTMENTS** – Maximizing benefits from capital investments.





# Our Core *Values*

## **SAFETY**

- *Safety* is part of everything the FRA does. Reducing and eliminating risk is essential to ensure safety across the rail industry.

## **INNOVATION**

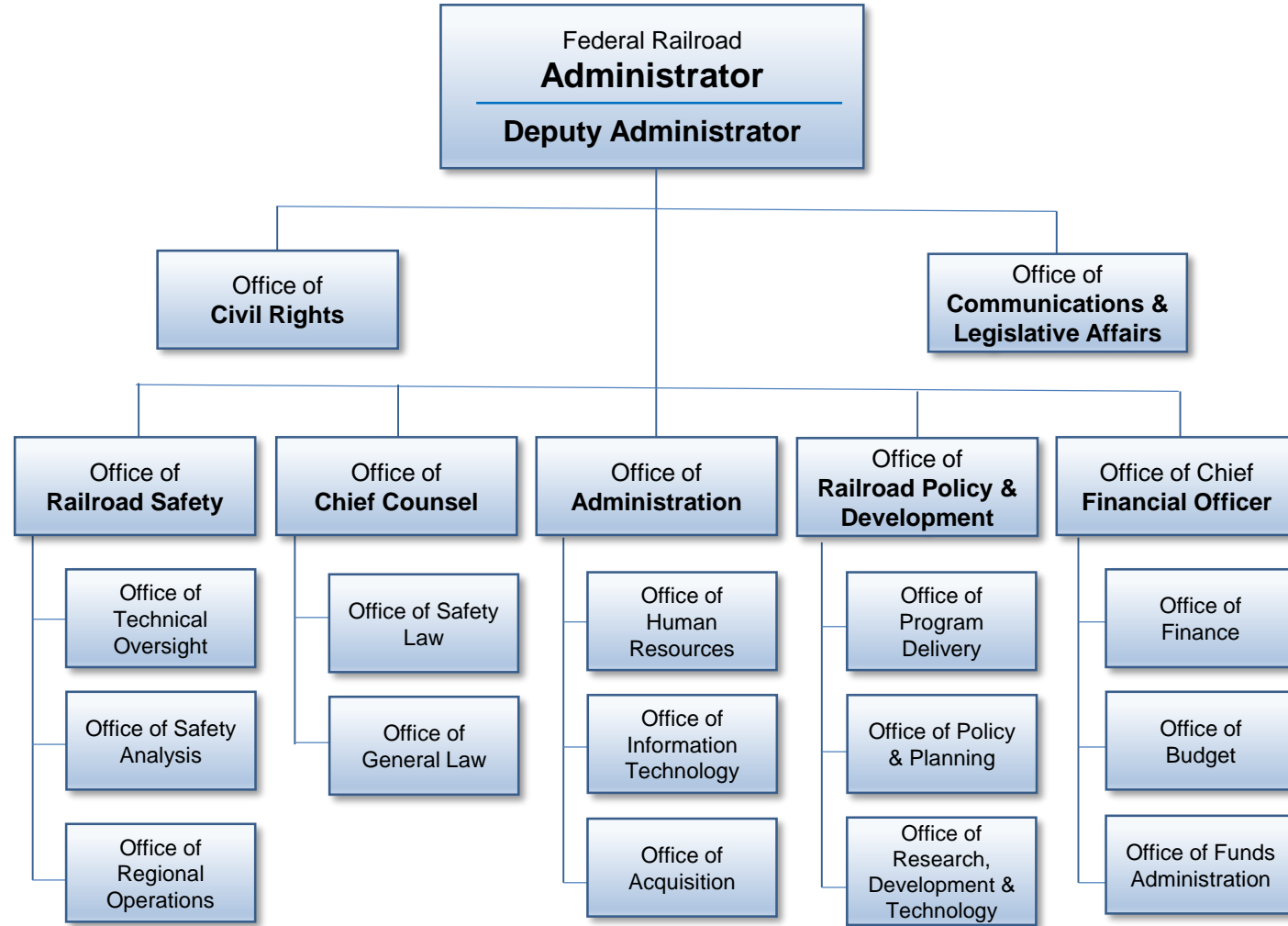
- *Innovation* is vital to advancing railroad efficiency and reliability.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- *Accountability* is key value, deeply embedded in our organizational culture.



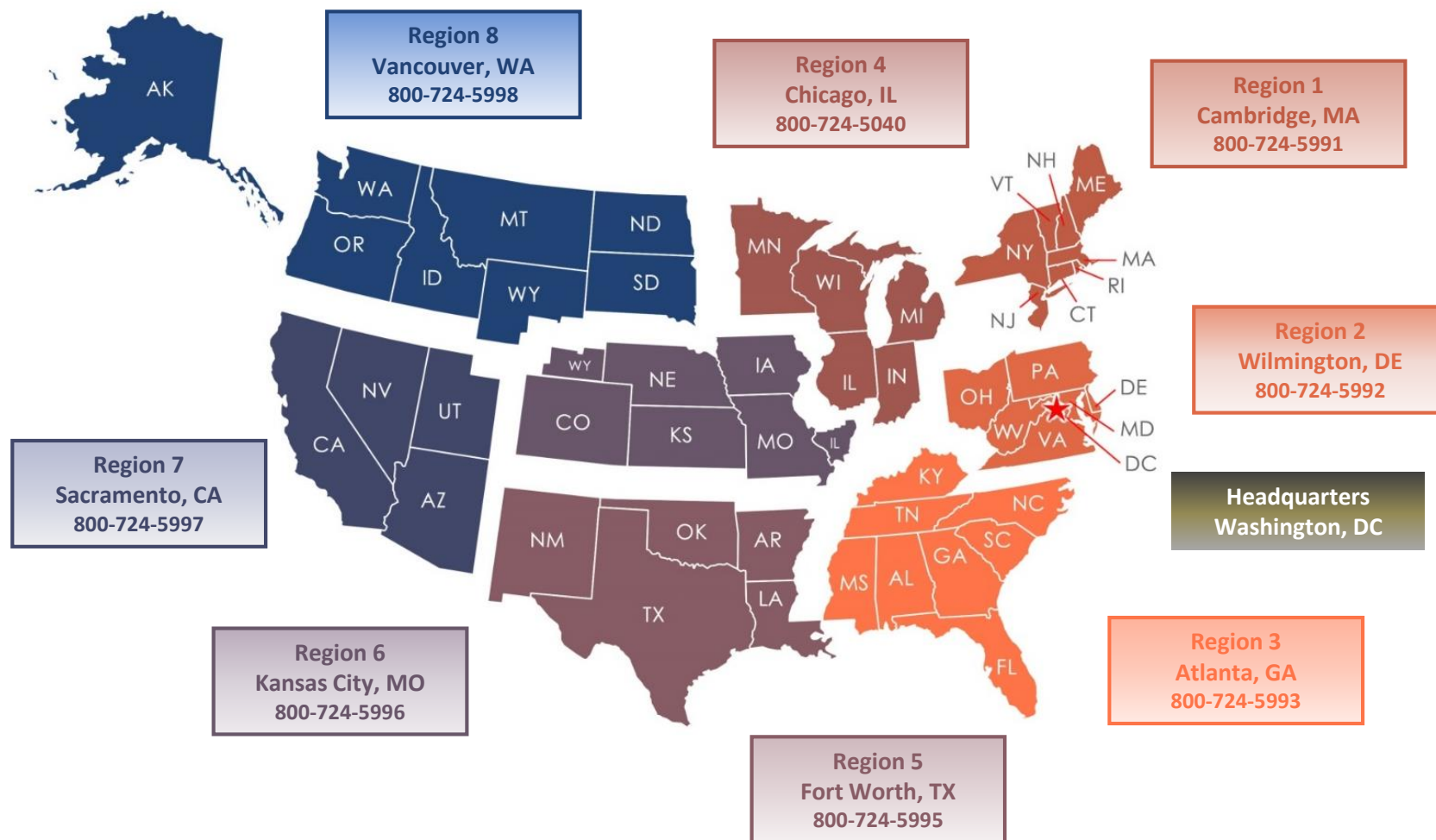
# Federal Railroad Administration



# Regional Safety Offices

## SAFETY NEVER SLEEPS

FRA's eight regional offices are continuously vigilant in ensuring the safe transport of goods and people across the country.



# Safety is Our Number One Priority

## Using Data to Drive Decision-Making and Actions

Every regulation issued and enforcement action taken is based on performance-based data, factual evidence and sound research.

- Over the past decade, train accidents have declined 31 percent
- Highway-rail grade crossing collisions are down 17 percent
- Employee fatalities have been reduced by 48 percent



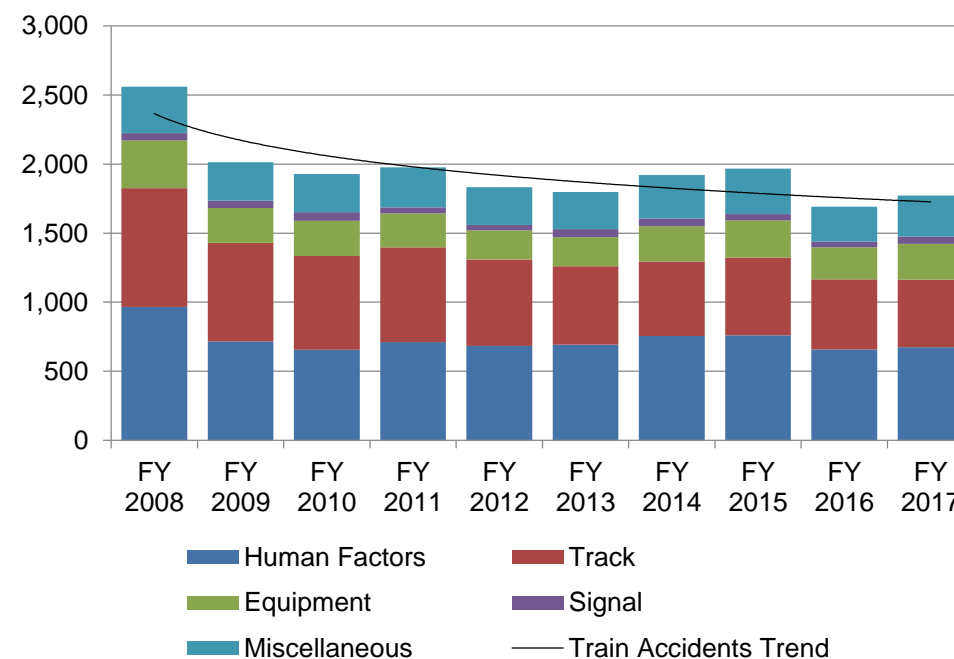
### Ten-Year Trend for Accident Reductions

\*Fiscal Year Representing Absolute Numbers

Source: FRA

### Ten-year Downward Trend for Train Accident Reductions (FY08-FY17)

\*Fiscal Year Representing Absolute Numbers



# *Safety is Our Number One Priority (continued)*

## **FRA'S SIGNIFICANT SAFETY IMPLEMENTATIONS:**

### **Preventive Actions – Reduces Accidents, Risks, and More**

- Ensuring Railroad Implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC)
- Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Program
- Trespass Prevention Safety Program
- HAZMAT Transportation/Tank Car Safety
- Risk Reduction/System Safety/Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C3RS)
- Passenger Equipment Safety Standards
- Control of Alcohol and Drug Use Standards & Regulations
- Hours of Service of Railroad Employees
- Railroad Bridge Safety Oversight
- Waivers, Approvals, and Oversight of Technology Implementation



# Passenger Rail Safety Oversight

## *FRA's Role Related to AMTRAK, Rail Passenger Service*

### **Amtrak is congressionally chartered** (*Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970*)

- For-profit corporation; independent for purposes of day-to-day operations
- Federal government exercises long-term control
- Reliant, in part, on annual federal and state appropriations

### **Amtrak operates a nationwide passenger rail network, including:**

- Higher-speed, high frequency Northeast Corridor services
- State-supported short distance corridor service in heavily populated regions
- Long-distance services connecting rural areas and distant population centers

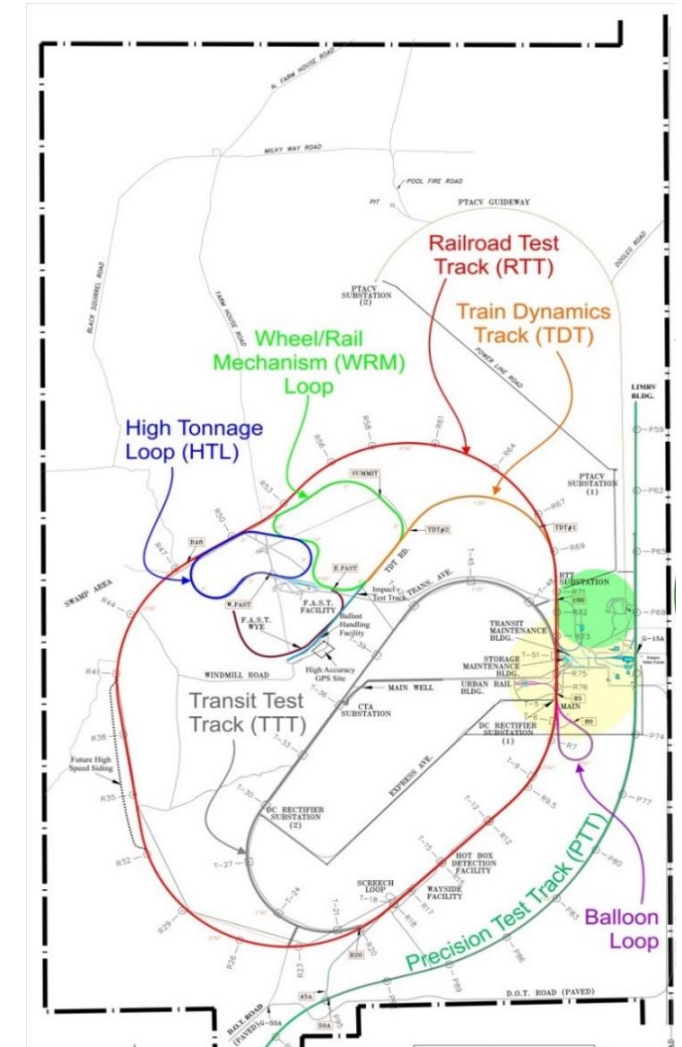
### **FRA's Role**

- Administers Amtrak's Grants for operating, capital, and debt obligations
- Oversees Amtrak's performance; inspects safety compliance; and provides technical assistance and standards



# Innovation for the Future

- Since FY 2006, Congress has appropriated approximately \$40 million annually for FRA's research, development, and technology program.
- The FRA Transportation Technology Center (TTC) in Pueblo, Colorado plays an important part in research, development, and testing of rail infrastructure and equipment.
- Approximately 25% of FRA's annual RD&T investment goes to TTC.



# FRA Areas of Research

## TRACK

- **FOCUS:** To develop technologies to improve track inspection and monitoring
- Track and infrastructure failure is the leading cause of train derailments in the United States.
- Another common cause of derailment is incorrect interaction between moving vehicles and the track.

## ROLLING STOCK

- **FOCUS:** To prevent derailments, equipment failure, and undesired emergency brake applications
- Other integral research areas are risk assessment and mitigation, along with support for safety assurance.

## TRAIN CONTROL & COMMUNICATION

- **FOCUS:** To develop Intelligent Railroad Systems
- Systems will incorporate new sensor, computer, and digital communications technologies into train control, braking systems, grade crossings, and defect detection; also will integrate into planning and scheduling systems.

## HUMAN FACTORS

- **FOCUS:** To conduct research into automation, fatigue, distraction, and ergonomics
- Also conduct pilot trials to improve safety and organizational culture in railroad organizations.
- Human errors account for more than one third of all train accidents in the U.S. railroad industry.



# *Investing in Infrastructure*

## Our \$29.7 Billion Portfolio Includes:

- Railroad Safety Technology Grants for PTC
- Railroad Safety Infrastructure Improvement Grants
- Railroad Safety Grants for the Safe Transportation of Energy Products by Rail
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grants
- Restoration and Enhancement Grants
- Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Grants
- Research, Development, and Technology
- Amtrak National and NEC Network Grants
- TIGER / BUILD
- FASTLANE / INFRA
- High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Grants
- Rail Line Relocation Grants





# Guiding Principles

- **INTEGRITY.** The highest standards of ethical conduct will guide our stewardship of the public's trust and resources.
- **EXCELLENCE.** We will empower employees to focus time and resources on data-driven, cost-effective solutions that promote FRA mission accomplishments. We seek ongoing development of our knowledge base and skills. We will exhibit professional behavior at all times.
- **TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.** Senior leadership will engage employees in robust dialogue and constructive communication. We will embrace open decision-making. Our reward and recognition system will hold each of us responsible for our performance.
- **INNOVATION.** We will become an enterprising, resilient organization that invests in the future, as it streamlines and improves current operations.
- **ENGAGEMENT.** We will engage our stakeholders for creative problem solving and development of effective policies, programs, technology, and investments.
- **SAFETY.** We will strive to ensure the safety of our employees, the public, and the rail industry workforce.



# CONTACT US

Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

For more information visit us at  
[www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov)



Connect with us **USDOTFRA**